

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 501

By Clabough

A RESOLUTION To honor and commend Sterling Woodrow Hearon upon his receipt of the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Sterling Woodrow Hearon is one such remarkable citizen who is richly deserving of this legislative body's commendation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hearon was recently awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's state convention on December 3, 2001; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Tennessee, Sterling Hearon was born February 5, 1923 in Blount County to Albert Gilmore Hearon and Tenia Carpenter Hearon; growing up he enjoyed the companionship of his eight brothers and two sisters; and

WHEREAS, An outstanding scholar, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Sterling Woodrow Hearon honorably served in the United States Navy during World War II in submarine service; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, Mr. Hearon, and his wife Jean, purchased their first parcel of farm land; through their hard work, love of the land, and perseverance, their family farm has grown to include one hundred twelve acres owned and approximately one hundred fifty acres leased; and

WHEREAS, During the course of his thirty years of distinguished service with the Blount County Farm Bureau, Sterling Hearon has served for eighteen years as the Blount County Farm Bureau Director, twelve years as the Blount County Farm Bureau President, and one year as the Blount County Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, He has diligently attended every Blount County Farm Bureau Monthly Meeting and missed only one Blount County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting; during his twelve noteworthy years as Farm Bureau President, he never missed a Farm Bureau State Convention and missed only one American Farm Bureau Federation Convention; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the Blount County Farm Bureau, Sterling Woodrow Hearon lends his time and considerable talents to numerous other professional and community organizations, including serving as a member of the Blount/Greenback Farmers Cooperative; Charter Member of the Tennessee Cattleman's Association; District Director of the Tennessee Cattleman's Association; Director of the Blount County Livestock Association; Lifetime Member of the American Hereford Association; Director and Vice Chairman of F.S.A.; and President, Vice President, and Trustee of the Houston Station Community Club; and

WHEREAS, A devout and active member of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Mr. Hearon has faithfully taught the Young People's Class for twenty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, Sterling Hearon is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of fifty-four years, Jean Wilson; his son, Dennis Hearon; his three grandchildren; and his great grandson; and

WHEREAS, Sterling Woodrow Hearon epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his life of stalwart service to his fellow farmers and the agriculture industry of this great State stands as a testament to the difference one person can make; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sterling Woodrow Hearon for his admirable dedication to the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Sterling Woodrow Hearon for his meritorious service to the Blount County Farm Bureau, salute his stalwart commitment to Tennessee agriculture and Tennessee farmers, and congratulate him on his receipt of the Distinguished Service Award from the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. We also extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.